

**MPO/RTPO/WSDOT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY
RED LION HOTEL
AUGUST 29, 2006**

WASHINGTON TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The last public outreach is at Port Angeles on August 30 with the wrap-up for public comment on September 1. No surprises were heard at the outreach venues held earlier around the state, and there was a pretty good turnout. However, recurring topics were requests for more emphasis and recognition of higher funding needs for counties and transit.

Thank you to the RTPOs for co-hosting the outreach events and helping to shape the plan. WSDOT will continue to work with the Commission to determine how to address the comments.

The Transportation Commission is adding a "Global Warming" piece to the WTP and the "Discussion Guide" is becoming the basis for an executive summary to the WTP Update for 2007-2026.

DRAFT HIGHWAY SYSTEM PLAN (HSP) UPDATE

WSDOT headquarters and regions will be working with the MPOs and RTPOs to coordinate on the draft HSP. As a result, the schedule for updating the HSP will shift into the fall and if necessary the spring of 2007 so that coordination can occur.

WASHINGTON STRATEGIC HIGHWAY SAFETY PLAN

SAFETEA-LU requires the development of the Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). WSDOT is working with the Washington Traffic Safety Commission, Department of Licensing, Washington State Patrol, and other agencies and organizations to complete the plan. The SHSP focused several data driven emphasis areas including impaired drivers, speeding drivers, pedestrian safety and reducing run of road and intersection accidents. All of these emphasis areas were reviewed during the public comment period, which produced 40 responses that the committee will review and incorporate as appropriate. On September 14, the plan will be presented to the Governor for approval. Once approved, \$40 million in SAFETEA-LU funds will then be available. The draft plan may be found at: [WSDOT - Draft Strategic Highway Safety Plan](#)

ENHANCEMENTS PROCESS

The Joint Transportation Committee put together a **draft** questionnaire for the MPOs/RTPOs in order to get feedback about the STP Enhancement Program. The JTC would like the MPOs/RTPOs responses to the draft questionnaire back by noon, September 7, 2006. Gene Baxstrom will e-mail Michael Cardwell an electronic version to forward onto tribal council members for response.

Following the meeting, the questions were refined and 10 “final” questions e-mailed to the MPOs, RTPOs, and Michael Cardwell with a request for response by Friday, September 15.

ACTION: Please return the questionnaire to [Gene Baxstrom](#) by

September 15.



GUIDANCE FOR FEDERAL PROJECT SELECTION

There was guidance provided on Federal project selection at the May Coordinating Committee that RTPOs have to follow based on the Governor's veto message. Part of this guidance requires a report by the RTPOs. The due date for submittal of the report to Highways and Local Programs Division (H&LP) is November 1, 2006. H&LP will collect the RTPOs regional priorities and project selections and will work with the RTPOs on preparing their required summaries of each RTPOs project prioritization process. The information will be required annually. One clarifying point that came up during this discussion is that STP allocations under TEA21 could use up to 15% on rural minor collectors from FFY 2004 Obligation Authority. Funds from FFY 2005 and 2006 cannot be used for rural minor collectors under SAFETEA-LU unless a technical corrections bill is adopted to allow it.

FEDERAL UPDATE

Congress returns after Labor Day. They are scheduled for about 14 working days before adjourning around October 1.

House and Senate Appropriations have each passed their transportation spending bills. Conference negotiators have not yet been appointed. No changes or additions to earmarks are expected.

It's unclear if transportation appropriations can be passed before October 1 but it's unlikely. Expect allocations to come out no earlier than April or May 2007.

Congress is likely to return in November for a short session. If the Democrats regain control of the house nothing significant will happen until next year. Some appropriations bills may pass.

WEST COAST CORRIDOR COALITION/WESTERN COGS

This coalition represents a partnership of civic, economic development, and transportation interests along the “system of corridors” running north-south along the west coast from Mexico to Canada. It is currently hiring a policy consultant and had a successful conference in Portland. Two MPO members include Jim Miller, Whatcom COG and Bob Drewel, Puget Sound Regional Council. The group is making progress, has adopted by-laws, and is looking forward to future endeavors.

ACTION: Steve Reinmuth will provide the by-laws.



PLANNING FUNDS

The legislature wishes a better understanding of planning funds and expenditures (funds which are used or disbursed from WSDOT's T program). These include MPO and RTPO funding both state and federal which is distributed through the T program. All other funds under the "T" program are subject to review and include funding the Strategic Planning and Programming Division (the offices for planning functions, programming, transportation data, geographic/photogrammetry/GIS, economics, Gray Notebook) and Research/Library and the Freight Policy Office. In order to prepare for a likely interim House Transportation Committee meeting, WSDOT is asking the MPOs and RTPOs about the activities that these funds have supported and accomplished. To help gather this information, a spreadsheet was provided to the MPOs/RTPOs with a request to have it filled in and returned by September 8 to WSDOT. In addition, in order for the MPOs and RTPOs to provide the legislature information, representation from the Coordinating Committee is needed. Gordon Rogers, WCOG; Paul Bennett, QUAD-County; Jeff Wilkens, WVTC; and Mark Gulbranson, PSRC volunteered to represent the Coordinating Committee at the legislative hearing.

ACTION: MPOs/RTPOs—please fill in the spreadsheet and return to

[Elizabeth Robbins](#) by September 8.



CONCURRENCY STUDIES

There are three concurrency studies underway. The Legislature directed WSDOT to administer a study to be completed by PSRC that "examines multimodal transportation improvements and strategies to comply with concurrency requirements of the GMA." The report of findings and recommendations must be submitted to the Legislature by December 31, 2006.

The Legislature also asked WSDOT to review concurrency as applied to state highways and ferries with the report due to the Legislature by December 1, 2006.

The information gathered for both reports so far includes gaps, current law and practices, and policy options. However, it appears that using concurrency to finance the system in multiple jurisdictions is not an effective tool.

Spokane RTC is also conducting a regional concurrency study. Both the City of Spokane and Spokane County are interested in a regional concurrency management system. The firm contracted to do the study will soon be meeting with elected officials to determine if the regional concurrency management system will work in the Spokane area.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING (NPRM)

Washington State's response to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, for implementing the planning and programming statutes in SAFETEA-LU, was submitted to the United States Department of Transportation in Washington D.C.

In addition, WSDOT requested all of the MPOs demonstrate support of a joint statement of principles that should guide the finalization of the rules. The joint statement promoted the following four main principles:

1. Keep Guidance as Guidance
2. Avoid “NEPAizing” Planning
3. Maintain the Flexibility in SAFETEA-LU
4. Maintain Consistency with the SAFETEA-LU

After discussion and agreement that these principles are in alignment with positions of AMPO, NARC, and AASHTO, the MPOs signed the “Washington

State Principles for Planning and Programming Rules”
WSDOT sent the “Principles” to the Federal Register docket on August 29,

2006.



Planning - MPO -
NPRM Comments letter



Washington State
Principles.pdf

COMMUTE TRIP REDUCTION

This month WSDOT is talking with local jurisdictions on the new draft CTR rules. The new law shifts the program to those urban growth areas that contain the most congested state highways. The law establishes a planning framework that better integrates CTR with local, regional, and state transportation and land use planning and investment. It also keeps the CTR plan consistent with the regional plan. Guidance and other additional information should be available by the end of September.

Presently, WSDOT is taking public comment on the draft rules through a survey on-line at www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=421932455496

Survey results collected by Thursday, August 31 will be shared at the CTR Board meeting on September 8. To learn more about the CTR program or to provide additional feedback, please visit

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/tdm/taskforce/tfmaterials.cfm#program>

or contact Keith Cotton at 360.705.7910 or cottonk@wsdot.wa.gov

MPO/RTPO/WSDOT/TTPO UPDATES

Palouse—Developing Roadway Standards Guidelines that will lead to identifying all weather roads in the region.

PSRC—Hired Robin Mayhew, working on Destination 2030, and Vision 2020.

Whatcom COG—Updating the MTP and model.

Peninsula—The RTPO Board toured the graving dock in Tacoma for the Hood Canal Bridge.

TTPO—Held quarterly meeting and had 32 attendees. Discussed the Transportation Plan and fuel tax issues. Signed on to Target Zero. Will be attending American Planning Association meeting in Yakima.

Spokane RTC—Staff at TIB indicated to Governor's staff that MPOs had been contacted concerning swap of federal dollars for state dollars. When asked what MPOs had been contacted, none responded. It was requested that TIB attend the next Coordinating Committee meeting.

<p>ACTION: Regional Coordination staff will contact TIB and request that they attend next Coordinating Committee Meeting and present information on this topic.</p>
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YVCOG—There's an upcoming APA Conference in October in Yakima. Hired a consultant to update MTP. Looking for a transportation planner.

WVTC—Jeff Wilkens has accepted a position on FMSIB and will be representing Chelan County.

Southwest Washington RTC—Doing a 50-year vision of Clark County and a High Capacity Transit Study.

LCVMPO—First ever MTP is almost complete.

CWCOG—RFP's out for two projects: SR 432 Rail Alternative Study and Woodland 503 I-5 Strategic Transportation Analysis. Had closed I-5 for the implosion of the Trojan cooling tower.

BFCG—Updating MTP so it's SAFETEA-LU compliant.

Skagit MPO—Had a good WTP meeting.

TRPC—Doing outreach for US 101 Access Study and doing regionalism meetings with their elected officials.

WSDOT Aviation—Continuing work on long-range plan for aviation (LSAT) the phase 1 draft is due September 30.

Regional Coordination—Updating the Planning website with TIP amendments and approvals and updating business practices and efficiency by providing more correspondence via email.

Next Meeting's Agenda Item:
Federal/State Dollar Exchange—TIB
Chair and Vice Chair Elections

Possible 2007 Meeting Dates:

- February 27, 2007
- May 22, 2007
- August 28, 2007
- November 27, 2007

Next Meeting Date:

November 28, 2006